



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group art unit: 3679
Examiner: Gregory John Binda
Confirmation No.: 8348

In Re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Applicant(s): Ryouichi TOKIOKA et al.

Serial No.: 10/590,570

Filed: August 24, 2006

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For: EXPANDABLE SHAFT

Atty. ref.: AI 422NP

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT AND
CERTIFICATION UNDER
37 CFR § 1.97(e)

April 29, 2010

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an information disclosure statement submitted in compliance with the timing requirements of 37 CFR § 1.97(d), i.e., after the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Also, please find enclosed the requisite fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p).

Attached are copies of five Japanese patent documents, which were first cited on March 4, 2010, in a foreign Notification of Reasons for Refusal, issued in connection with the corresponding Japanese patent application No. 2005-268558. Any relevance of the document No. 61-28918 can be gleaned from the attached English-language translation of the document. The documents are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Also listed on the Form PTO-1449 are four U.S. patent documents Nos. US 2005/0257639 A1, US 2002/0169026 A1, US 4,898,566, and US 4,705,491, which correspond to the Japanese patent documents Nos. 2004-106599, 2002-340007, 63-231010 and 61-211527, respectively, and from which any relevance of the Japanese patent documents can be gleaned.

It is hereby certified that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in connection with a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

A credit card payment form PTO-2038 in the amount of the requisite fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) also is enclosed. Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissionaire is hereby authorized to charge the fee, or credit any overpayment to our deposit account No. 18-0002, and is requested to notify us accordingly.

Consideration of the listed documents is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

April 29, 2010

Date

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